



# Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report For Mohawk Village Apartments

## What is SWAP?

The Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP), established under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, requires every state to:

- ? Inventory land uses within the recharge areas of all public water supply sources;
- ? Assess the susceptibility of drinking water sources to contamination from these land uses; and
- ? Publicize the results to provide support for improved protection.

## SWAP and Water Quality

Susceptibility of a drinking water source does *not* imply poor water quality. Actual water quality is best reflected by the results of regular water tests.

Water suppliers protect drinking water by monitoring for more than 100 chemicals, treating water supplies, and using source protection measures to ensure that safe water is delivered to the tap.

Prepared by the  
Massachusetts Department of  
Environmental Protection,  
Bureau of Resource  
Protection,  
Drinking Water Program

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**Table 1: Public Water System (PWS) Information**

<b>PWS NAME</b>	Mohawk Village Apartments
<b>PWS Address</b>	280 Great Road
<b>City/Town</b>	Shirley, Massachusetts
<b>PWS ID Number</b>	2270011
<b>Local Contact</b>	Rene Lafleur
<b>Phone Number</b>	(978) 582-6612

<b>Well Name</b>	<b>Source ID#</b>	<b>Zone I (in feet)</b>	<b>IWPA (in feet)</b>	<b>Source Susceptibility</b>
Well #1	2270011	198	500	High
Well #2	2270011	198	500	High

## Introduction

We are all concerned about the quality of the water we drink. Drinking water wells may be threatened by many potential contaminant sources, including septic systems, road salting, and improper disposal of hazardous materials. Citizens and local officials can work together to better protect these drinking water sources.

### Purpose of this report:

This report is a planning tool to support local and state efforts to improve water supply protection. By identifying land uses within water supply protection areas that may be potential contaminant sources, the assessment helps focus protection efforts on appropriate best management practices (BMPs) and drinking water source protection measures. Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) staff are available to provide information about funding and other resources that may be available to your community.

### This report includes:

1. Description of the Water System
2. Discussion of Land Uses within Protection Areas
3. Recommendations for Protection
4. Attachments, including a Map of the Protection Areas

## 1. Description of the Water System

Mohawk Village Apartments gets its water supply from two wells. Well #1 is located in a pit about 40 feet from the pump house. It is 96 feet deep. Well #2 is located about 30 feet to the east of the chalet, and is 225 feet deep. Each well has a Zone I of 198 feet and an Interim Wellhead Protection Area (IWPA) of 500 feet. The well is located in an aquifer with a high vulnerability to contamination due to the absence of hydrogeologic barriers that can prevent contaminant migration. Please refer to the attached map of the Zone I and IWPA.

The well serving the facility has no treatment at this time. For current information on monitoring results and treatment and a copy of the most recent Consumer Confidence

### What is a Protection Area?

A well's water supply protection area is the land around the well where protection activities should be focused. Each well has a Zone I protective radius and an Interim Wellhead Protection Area (IWPA).

- **The Zone I** is the area that should be owned or controlled by the water supplier and limited to water supply activities.

- **The IWPA** is the larger area that is likely to contribute water to the well.

In many instances the IWPA does not include the entire land area that could contribute water to the well. Therefore, the well may be susceptible to contamination from activities outside of the IWPA that are not identified in this report.

### What is Susceptibility?

Susceptibility is a measure of a well's potential to become contaminated due to land uses and activities within the Zone I and Interim Wellhead Protection Area (IWPA).

Report (CCR), please contact the Public Water System contact person listed above in Table 1.

## 2. Discussion of Land Uses in the Protection Areas

There are a number of land uses and activities within the drinking water supply protection areas that are potential sources of contamination.

Key issues include:

1. **Inappropriate Activities in Zone Is;**
2. **Septic system; and**
3. **Automotive-Body shop.**

The overall ranking of susceptibility to contamination for the wells is High, based on the presence of at least one high threat land use or activity in the IWPA's, as seen in Table 2.

1. **Zone Is** – Currently, the wells do not meet DEP's restrictions, which only allow water supply related activities in Zone Is. The facility's Zone Is contain buildings, childrens' play equipment, and parking areas. The public water supplier does not own and/or control all land encompassed by the Zone Is. Please note that systems not meeting DEP Zone I requirements must get DEP approval and address Zone I issues prior to increasing water use or modifying systems.

#### Recommendations:

- ✓ Remove all non-water supply activities from the Zone Is to comply with DEP's Zone I requirements.
- ✓ If the facility intends to continue utilizing the structures and parking areas in the Zone Is, use BMPs and restrict activities that could pose a threat to the water supply.

2. **Septic system** - The septic system is located within the IWPA. If a septic system fails or is not properly maintained it could be a potential source of microbial contamination. Improper disposal of household hazardous chemicals to septic systems is a potential source of contamination to the water supply.

#### Recommendations:

- ✓ Staff and residents should be instructed on the proper disposal of spent household chemicals. Include custodial staff, groundskeepers, and certified operator.
- ✓ Septic system components should be located, inspected, and maintained on a regular basis. Refer to the appendices for more information regarding septic systems.

**Table 2: Table of Activities within the Water Supply Protection Areas**

Potential Contaminant Sources	Zone I	IWPA	Threat	Comments
Parking spaces	Both wells	Both wells	Moderate	Limit road salt usage and provide drainage away from wells
Septic System	No	Both wells	Moderate	See septic system brochure
Automotive-Body shop	No	Both wells	High	Oils, paints, anti-freeze & solvents
Structures	Both wells	Both wells	-	Non-water supply structures in Zone I

\* -For more information on Contaminants of Concern associated with individual facility types and land uses please see the SWAP Draft Land Use / Associated Contaminants Matrix on DEP's website - [www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws/](http://www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws/).

## Glossary

**Zone I:** The area closest to a well; a 100 to 400 foot radius proportional to the well's pumping rate. To determine your Zone I radius, refer to the attached map.

**IWPA:** A 400 foot to ½ mile radius around a public water supply well proportional to its pumping rate; the area DEP recommends for protection in the absence of a defined Zone I. To determine IWPA radius, refer to the attached map.

**Zone II:** The primary recharge area defined by a hydrogeologic study.

**Aquifer:** An underground water-bearing layer of permeable material that will yield water in a usable quantity to a well.

**Hydrogeologic Barrier:** An underground layer of impermeable material that resists penetration by water.

**Recharge Area:** The surface area that contributes water to a well.

3. **Automotive (Body shop)** - The property located to the west of Mohawk Village Apartment lies within the IWPA and is used as an automotive autobody and repair shop. If not handled properly leaks and spills of paints and other hazardous materials used in their daily activities can potentially contaminate the water supply.

### Recommendations:

- ✓ Educate the neighboring body shop about the location of the well and IWPA.
- ✓ Encourage the body shop to use BMP's for the storage, handling, and disposal of all hazardous chemicals.
- ✓ If the auto body facility has floor drains, ensure that the floor drains lead to a tight tank or municipal sewer as required by the plumbing code and Underground Injection Control Regulations, 310 CMR 27.00.

Implementing the following recommendations will reduce the system's susceptibility to contamination.

## 3. Protection Recommendations

Implementing protection measures and best management practices (BMPs) will reduce the wells' susceptibility to contamination. Mohawk Village Apartments should review and adopt the key recommendations above and the following:

### Zone I:

- ✓ Keep non-water supply activities out of the Zone I.
- ✓ Consider well relocation if Zone I threats cannot be mitigated.
- ✓ Do not use road salt within the Zone I.
- ✓ If it's not feasible to purchase privately owned land within the Zone I at this time, consider a conservation restriction that would prohibit potentially threatening activities or a right of first refusal to purchase the property.

### Training and Education:

- ✓ Train staff on proper hazardous material use, disposal, emergency response, and best management practices;

- ✓ Post drinking water protection area signs at key visibility locations

### Facilities Management:

- ✓ Implement standard operating procedures regarding proper storage, use and disposal of hazardous materials.

### Planning:

- ✓ Work with local officials in Shirley to include the facility IWPA in Aquifer Protection District Bylaws and to assist you in improving protection.
- ✓ Have a plan to address short-term water shortages and long-term water demands. Keep the phone number of a bottled water company readily available.
- ✓ Supplement the SWAP assessment with additional local information and incorporate it into water supply educational efforts. Use a potential contaminant threat inventory to assist in setting priorities, focusing inspections, and creating

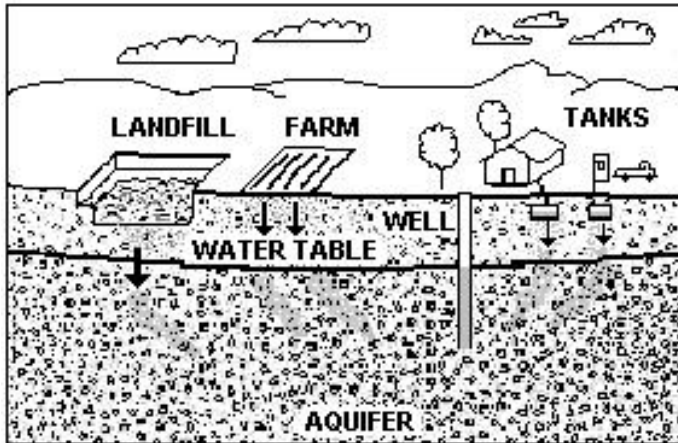


Figure 1: Example of how a well could become contaminated by different land uses and activities.

### For More Information:

Contact **Josephine Yemoh-Ndi** in DEP's **Worcester Office** at **(508) 792-7650 x 5030** for more information and for assistance in improving current protection measures.

More information relating to drinking water and source protection is available on the Drinking Water Program web site at:

[www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws/](http://www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws/)

educational activities.

### Funding:

The Department's Wellhead Protection Grant Program provides funds to assist public water suppliers in addressing Wellhead protection through local projects. Protection recommendations discussed in this document may be eligible for funding under the "Wellhead Protection Grant Program". For additional information, please refer to the attached program fact sheet from last year (Please note: each program year the Department posts a new Request for Response for the Grant program (RFR)).

These recommendations are only part of your ongoing local drinking water source protection. Citizens and community officials should use this SWAP report to spur discussion of local drinking water protection measures.

### Additional Documents:

To help with source protection efforts, more information is available by request or online at [www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws/](http://www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws/), including:

1. Water Supply Protection Guidance Materials such as model regulations, Best Management Practice information, and general water supply protection information.
2. MA DEP SWAP Strategy
3. Land Use Pollution Potential Matrix
4. Draft Land/Associated Contaminants Matrix

Copies of this assessment have been provided to the public water supplier, town boards, and the local media.

## 4. Attachments

- Map of the Public Water Supply (PWS) Protection Area.
- Recommended Source Protection Measures Factsheet
- Your Septic System Brochure
- Wellhead Protection Grant Program Fact Sheet
- Source Protection Sign Order Form

